

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 8, 11, 12, 22, and 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Yeh, Claims 12, 14-18, 19, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Doan et al., Claims 2-6, 9, 10, 23-27, and 30-36 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Yeh in view of Doan et al., Claims 7 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Yeh in view of Yeh (US 5,011,422), and Claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Doan et al.

The Applicant has amended the independent claims to clarify its invention. For example, Applicant has amended Claims 1, 12, and 22 to clarify that the torque be applied directly to the protrusion of the connector body.

In the device described in Yeh (US 5,106,312), the protrusion serves only to reposition the movable protrusion of the cooperating tool so that the movable protrusion can engage the saw tooth portion of the drive pipe. The current invention provides a simplified yet novel protrusion shape such that torque can be applied directly to the protrusion.


Although Yeh does not specifically teach the use of a circumferential opening formed between the protrusion and the housing, sized for the express purpose of restricting access of a person's hand or conventional tool, Applicant has amended Claim 11 to clarify that the protrusion is formed by the extension of the knob that is positioned within in a separate housing.

With respect to the Examiners rejection of Claims 2-6, 9, 10, 23-27, and 30-36 under 35 U.S.C. § 103, Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's interpretation of Doan et al. Doan teaches a spring-loaded magnetic driver wherein a socket attached to the end of the shaft engages a fastener. Doan cannot be used to render obvious every conceivable fastener because

the language cited in Doan is not instructive. Doan et al. teaches nothing with respect to novel shaped fasteners. Nothing in Doan et al. would motivate one skilled in the art to create a fastener similar to those taught by the current invention.

Reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested. The foregoing amendment and remarks are believed to be responsive to every matter raised in the office action. If however some matter has been overlooked, an opportunity to correct the oversight would be appreciated. Please contact the undersigned with any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

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